

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District,

FOR THE YEAR 1894,

BY

WILLIAM WRIGHT SHAW, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

*Medical Officer of Health to the Kirkham Urban
Sanitary Authority.*



KIRKHAM:

PRINTED BY JOHN RIGBY, POST OFFICE, POULTON STREET.

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KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE KIRKHAM
URBAN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Report for the year 1894, which I have the honour to present to you, is one which gives us good reason for congratulation, although the year did not pass without causing great anxiety on account of the presence of infectious disease.

As regards the pleasant aspect of my Report, it lies in the fact that there is a marked lowering of the death-rate, and what is of still greater import is the very low death-rate from infantile mortality. If some definite reason for this improvement could be pointed out, it would be a useful lesson in sanitation, for a drop from 218 in 1893, to 84 in 1894, is phenomenal. I find that few infants died from inanition and debility in the first few hours of life, this often greatly tends to swell the death-rate. It is possible also that greater cleanliness being enforced in the lower part of the

town (on account of the small-pox scare) may have had a tendency to a more healthy condition of the juvenile portion of the community.

During the first Quarter of the year there was little sickness other than chest affections, the result of the inclement weather. A case of typhoid fever was notified ; this is only what one can expect with the old-fashioned privies still in vogue. Many of these are such a serious nuisance that I purpose bringing the worst cases before your Board, so as to compel the owners to alter them to comply with Section 89 of your Bye-laws.

The second Quarter caused the greatest anxiety, for in May was notified the first case of small-pox ; four other cases quickly followed. These five cases were at different houses. Having no Infectious Hospital I re-vaccinated the rest of the families, thoroughly disinfected them, and removed them to isolated cottages, where they were kept under close quarantine for 21 days, and treated the cases of small-pox at their own homes. I am pleased to report that by this means the outbreak was checked ; in no instance did a second case occur in the same family. I attribute the outbreak (as in former years) to the infection being carried by tramps.

The erection of a permanent isolation Hospital will, I trust, be shortly supplied.

Two cases of scarlet fever were reported. The use of the Notification Act is apparent when I say that owing to prompt notification and prompt isolation no other cases occurred.

The third Quarter was particularly free from sickness, only 11 deaths occurred, and no zymotic disease was notified.

During the last Quarter two sporadic cases of scarlet fever were notified, but being taken in hand, without delay, did not spread.

II.

The sanitary work during the year was well carried out. The emptying of privies is no doubt a great nuisance whilst it lasts. This nuisance would be greatly aggravated if carried out at night as has been suggested, for, owing to their depth, many of the ash-pits hold water, which renders it difficult to make a clean job even in broad daylight, and would be an utter impossibility at night.

The sewage of the town gets well away, but close attention to the settling tanks is necessary to keep things up to their present standard. The Main Brook, for so many years a nuisance as an open sewer, is now free from contamination.

The water supplied by the Fylde Waterworks Company still maintains its well-known excellence; the pressure is also all that can be desired.



KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.



*Summary of Sanitary work done, and Report, for the
year ending December 31st, 1894.*

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Number of Notices given by Inspector	...	...	...	225
Special Notices	...	...	...	2
Notice to lime-wash and cleanse	...	...	...	23
Drains opened out, cleansed, and defects rectified	..	...		81
Slopstone pipes disconnected from drains and made to discharge over gullies	...	...	...	5
Privies improved	...	...	...	24
Wet and offensive ash-pits drained, &c.	...	...	...	19
Privies converted into water-closets	...	...	...	1
Nuisances abated arising from defective walls in connection with closets	...	...	...	32
Nuisances arising from pigsties	...	...	...	2
Filthy back yards, &c., cleansed under notice	...	...		81
Fowls kept in dwelling-houses removed	...	...	...	2
Fowls and wooden erections removed out of back yards	...			6
Pigs removed from small back yards...	...	...	...	2

EMPTYING OF ASH-PITS.

Closets and ash-pits connected with dwelling-house emptied and disinfected	778
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BAKEHOUSES.

Inspected periodically. No complaints during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Inspected regularly ; no overcrowding, quite the reverse.

Notices to lime-wash	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	3

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Kept well lime-washed ; offal removed immediately after slaughter.
One carcase of beef seized and destroyed. No prosecution.

DAIRIES', COWSHEDS', AND MILK SHOPS' ORDER.

Inspected regularly.

Total number registered	17
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MARINE STORE DEALER.

Duly inspected	1
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TRIPE MANUFACTURERS.

Duly inspected	2
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DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Typhoid fever, 3 ; scarlet fever, 4 ; erysipelas, 1 ; small-pox, 6	14
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WILLIAM SWARBRICK, Sanitary Inspector.



VITAL STATISTICS.



The population estimated for 1894 is 4,052. On this estimated population the following statistics are made out.

BIRTHS.—During the year 118 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 29 per 1,000.

MARRIAGES.—103 Marriages were solemnized during the year: 25 at the Parish Church, 10 at the Roman Catholic Church, 68 at the Office of the Superintendent Registrar.

DEATHS.—There were 90 deaths registered, including those in the Workhouse. Deducting 14 deaths of Inmates not belonging to the Township of Kirkham we have 76 as the correct number, giving a death-rate of 19 per 1,000, the lowest for several years past.

On analysing the causes of death, I find that 13 were from acute lung disease, and 21 from phthisis. The great proportion of the latter is due to the dusty nature of the work in the flax mill in the town, with the result that ventilating fans were ordered to be put in, and the workers in the more dusty rooms requested to wear respirators supplied by the firm.

Table shewing Deaths per Quarter for past five years.

Year.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
1890	...	21	...	18	...	18	...	19
1891	...	17	...	28	...	17	...	27
1892	...	50	...	19	...	17	...	24
1893	...	33	...	15	...	32	...	27
1894	...	31	...	16	...	11	...	18

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—Three deaths were registered from notifiable diseases, giving a rate of .7.

INFANTILE DEATH-RATE.—There were 118 births during the year, and 10 infants died under the age of twelve months, giving an infantile death-rate of 84 per 1,000. This is very satisfactory, and will be better understood when we find that the rate for the County in 1882 was 150, and for the whole of England and Wales 148.

Table shewing Birth, Death, Zymotic & Infantile Death-rate for the past 10 years.

Year.		Birth-rate.		Death-rate.		Zymotic Death-rate.		Infantile Death-rate.
1885	...	31·0	...	22·7	...	1·7	...	—
1886	...	33·6	...	22·5	...	2·7	...	—
1887	...	31·1	...	23·1	...	3·0	...	—
1888	...	34·7	...	18·7	...	0·7	...	—
1889	...	32·8	...	24·8	...	6·6	...	—
1890	...	33·6	...	18·4	...	·02	...	—
1891	...	30·0	...	22·2	...	·74	...	216
1892	...	31·9	...	27·4	...	·99	...	242
1893	...	31·0	...	21·3	...	·9	...	218
1894	...	29·0	...	19·0	...	·7	...	84

FYLDE UNION WORKHOUSE.

Twenty deaths occurred in the Workhouse, of these 11 were from senile decay.

Only one infant died, and that from congenital phthisis.

There were two cases of zymotic disease, one typhoid, one small-pox, both from outlying townships. As regards the small-pox case, which was of the malignant variety, every precaution was taken by means of isolation and re-vaccination to prevent the disease spreading, with the happy result that no other case was notified from this Institution.

The deaths in the Workhouse were of Inmates from the following townships :—Layton, 9 ; Thornton, 5 ; Kirkham, 6.

Appended are the tables furnished by the Local Government Board.

I am, &c.,

W. W. SHAW, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.



(A) *TABLE OF DEATHS, during the Year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of Kirkham, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																		
	(b) At all Ages	(c) Under 1 year	(d) 1 and under 5	(e) 5 and under 15	(f) 15 and under 25	(g) 25 and under 65	(h) 65 and upwards	(i) Under 5 5 upwards	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phtisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL	
									Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal														
Kirkham Urban Dist..	70	9	11	5	2	33	10	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	.....	.....	12	20
Workhouse	20	1	0	0	1	7	11	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS.....	90	10	11	5	3	40	21	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	.....	.....	12	21
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																											
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	14					3	11	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	8	14

(B) *TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of Kirkham, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.*

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Estimated to middle of 1894.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 / or over 5	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
	Census 1891					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas															
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)																											
Kirkham Urban.	4003	4052	118	Under 5 5 upwds	3	1				2						1															
Workhouse	—	—	—	Under 5 5 upwds	1					1																					
TOTALS.....				Under 5 5 upwds	6	3	1			3						1															

“ Notification of Infectious Disease ” has been compulsory in the District since February 1st, 1890. No Permanent Hospital for Isolation.

